

Appl. No. 10/620,335
Amendment dated: February 16, 2006
Reply to OA of: October 18, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1(currently amended). A device for treating dysphonia comprising:
a pair of substantially J-shaped supporters each made of a plate of titanium or an alloy thereof for supporting a corresponding one of edges incised at the midline of thyroid cartilage; and
a connector made of a plate of titanium or an alloy thereof, for joining the pair of supporters apart from each other,
wherein the J-shaped supporter has a longer supporting part of about 8 mm to about 12 mm in length and a shorter supporting part of about 1.5 mm to about 3.5 mm in length, and the connector has a width (d) of from 2 mm to 6 mm and is fixed with the respective curved portion of the J-shaped supporters.

2(original). The device according to claim 1, wherein the alloy has biocompatibility.

Claim 3(canceled).

4(currently amended). The device according to claim 1, wherein said each J-shaped supporter consists of a shorter supporting part to be disposed on an anterior part of the thyroid cartilage and a longer posterior supporting part to be disposed on a longer posterior part of the thyroid, and the shorter anterior supporting part is spaced apart from the longer posterior supporting part by a distance (t) ranging from 2 to 4 mm.

Claims 5-9(canceled).

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10(original). The device according to claim 1, wherein each supporter is formed with through-hole for passing suture therethrough.

Claims 11-16(canceled).

17 (previously presented). The device according to claim 1, wherein said J-shaped supporters have substantially the same shape and size as each other.

18-20(canceled).

21(new). A device for treating dysphonia comprising:

a pair of substantially J-shaped supporters each made of a plate of titanium or an alloy thereof for supporting a corresponding one of edges incised at the midline of thyroid cartilage; and

a connector made of a plate of titanium or an alloy thereof, for joining the pair of supporters apart from each other,

wherein the J-shaped supporter has a longer supporting part of about 8 mm to about 12 mm in length and a shorter supporting part of about 1.5 mm to about 3.5 mm, the J-shaped supporters form mirror images of each other, and the connector has a width (d) of from 2 mm to 6 mm and is fixed with the respective curved portion of the J-shaped supporters.

22(new). The device according to claim 21, wherein the alloy has biocompatibility.

23(new). The device according to claim 21, wherein the shorter supporting part is disposed on an anterior part of the thyroid cartilage the longer supporting part is disposed on a posterior part of the thyroid, and the shorter supporting part is spaced apart from the longer supporting part by a distance (t) ranging from 2 to 4 mm.

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24(new). The device according to claim 21, wherein each supporter is formed with through-hole for passing suture there through.